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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
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MARK HELD, ET AL. )  
 )  
Serial No. 09/499,859 )  
 )  
Filed: February 7, 2000 )  
 )  
Art Unit: 2665 )  
 )  
Patent Examiner: )  
 )  
Michael J. Molinari )

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JAN 07 2004

Technology Center 2600

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

December 31, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2003, please enter the  
following amendments to the above-identified application as follows